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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,341	01/15/2004	Michael E. Clarke		6391

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EXAMINER

PAIK, SANG YEOP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,341

Applicant(s)

CLARKE, MICHAEL E.

Examiner

Sang Y. Paik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-16 and 19-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-16 and 19-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldacci (US 5,017,759) in view of Gross (US 4,941,490).

Baldacci shows an apparatus including a steam generator disposed within a housing having a front sidewall, the steam generator having a canister with a heating means to heat the water contained in the canister, a manually operated valve with an actuator button to provide steam from the canister, a steam tube extending from the sidewall for transferring the steam, the heating means further having a thermostatic switch to control the heating temperature which would produce the desired pressure of the steam, and a safety pressure valve. However, Baldacci does not show the claimed pressure level of less than 15 psi.

Gross shows a steam generator for cleaning jewelry with a pressure regulator (60) which is capable of producing the pressure level of 3-100 psi. In view of Gross, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Baldacci with the steam generator with the gas pressure of less than 15 psi or any other pressure level to maintain the desired pressure level at which the steam is provided to serve the desired purpose including cleaning jewelry and like.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-4, 7-16 and 19-22 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 3/6/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues since Gross shows the operational pressure range of 60-80 psi with the adjustable pressure range 3-100 psi by a pressure regulator. The applicant argues this operational pressure range of 60-80 is the outside pressure range of the claimed range of less than 15 psi. However, this operational pressure range is not range at which the steam pressure is generated but at which the compressed pressure of the gas system is maintained. With such gas pressure maintained, the pressure regulator which is capable of adjusting the pressure between 3-100 would be capable of producing the desired steam pressure at the claimed level of less than 15 psi. Since the Gross device is used for the same purpose as that of the applicant's invention and since it would have been obvious to produce the steam pressure that is acceptable to effectively clean jewelry and other items alike without damaging it with an excess pressure, having such claimed pressure is not only taught by Gross but would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sang Y. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-4783. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-4:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sang Y Paik  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3742

syp